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WINNING!

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THE WORLD'S BEST NEWS & FACTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

BIG NEWS

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a basketball
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Making sense of the world

THE BEST
MAGAZINE FOR
CURIOS KIDS

THE WEEK Junior

SHARK SECRETS

Research sheds light on why the megalodon died out while the great white shark survived p14



DID YOU KNOW?

- The megalodon was the largest shark to ever live.
- It disappeared about 3.6 million years ago.
- The great white survived despite its smaller size.



This week's big news

DID YOU KNOW?
Caribbean islands are sorted into three main groups: the Bahamas, the Greater Antilles, and the Lesser Antilles.



Seaweed on the coastline of St. Kitts and Nevis

Caribbean fact file



St. John

The Caribbean includes more than 7,000 islands, 13 of which are independent nations.

- **POPULATION:** 44.3 million
- **COUNTRY SIZES:** Cuba is the largest (42,804 square miles). The smallest is St. Kitts and Nevis (100 square miles).
- **LANGUAGES:** Spanish, English, and native dialects
- **ECONOMY:** Farming, fishing, and tourism

Seaweed damages Caribbean coast

Record quantities of a brown seaweed called sargassum are smothering coastlines in the Caribbean, harming fish and other wildlife and threatening the tourism and fishing industries. Scientists and government officials are looking for ways to deal with the problem, which has been getting worse over the past decade.

What is happening?

The Caribbean region includes two large bodies of water: the Atlantic Ocean and the Caribbean Sea. More than 24 million tons of sargassum, which is a kind of algae (small, plant-like organisms that grow in water), piled up on Atlantic shores in June. That amount broke the previous record, set in 2018, by 20%, according to researchers at a University of South Florida lab. To the west, unusually large amounts of the seaweed have emerged in the Caribbean. Sargassum is not in itself harmful—in fact, it provides food and shelter for fish, birds, and other marine life. But if there is too much of it, the seaweed can damage the environment.

Why is this happening?

Although more research is needed to pinpoint exactly why the sargassum is so plentiful,

scientists said they believe that stronger than usual winds and currents first pushed large amounts of seaweed into the region in 2011. Since then, experts at an environmental program run by the United Nations (organization of 193 nations working for peace and cooperation) said sargassum has thrived in part because climate change is warming the sea water. In addition, sewage waste and fertilizers from agriculture in the region are finding their way into the water. Both contain nitrogen, a gas that causes the algae to bloom.



What are the effects?

Experts said the masses of seaweed recently killed thousands of fish along the island of Martinique. Scientists are also worried about endangered turtles becoming entangled in the sargassum and either dying at sea or being unable to lay their eggs. The vast clumps of seaweed raise water temperatures by trapping sunlight and throwing off the chemical balance in the water, threatening seagrass, coral reef, and sponge populations. The French island of Guadeloupe issued a health alert in late July warning people about high levels of hydrogen

sulfide (a type of gas) rising from rotting seaweed, which can worsen asthma and other respiratory illnesses. Sargassum is also a huge concern for the fishing industry because the seaweed damages boat engines and fishing gear. Tourism is affected as well, with some resorts having to close for up to five months. Ferry service and kayaking and snorkeling tours have also been suspended.

What is being done to help?

Government leaders have tried several methods to remove the seaweed. The Cayman Islands pumped out more than 2,800 square feet of it before rotting seaweed caused the pumps to stop working. Other islands tried using heavy machinery, but environmental groups warned that this could cause beach erosion or harm wildlife. Mexico brought in its Navy and hired local workers to haul the seaweed away from the water and sand. Businesses are also stepping in. One company, Elastec, created floating barriers that keep the seaweed away from beaches, allowing it to be carried away by winds or currents. President Joe Biden declared a federal emergency for St. Croix, one of the US Virgin Islands, after high amounts of sargassum affected a desalination plant (plant that removes salt from seawater, making it drinkable). When *The Week Junior* went to press, production of water on St. Croix had returned to normal levels.

This week's big news



US votes to add NATO members

The US Senate (one half of Congress) voted on August 3 to approve the application of Sweden and Finland to become members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO, a military alliance of 30 countries, mostly in Europe). The vote was 95–1. Josh Hawley, a Republican from Missouri, was the only senator to vote against it.

Sweden and Finland, which are located near Russia, have remained neutral on European conflicts for many years. After Russia invaded Ukraine in February, however, both countries feared Russian aggression and applied for NATO membership. All 30 members must vote to admit them, and 23 have now done so.

Adding Sweden and Finland would be one of the most important expansions of NATO in decades and would "make NATO stronger and America more secure," said Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, the top Republican in the Senate. The remaining NATO members are expected to vote in the weeks ahead. If Turkey votes no, as it has threatened to, the process could be prolonged.



The flags of Finland and Sweden



IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

HOPE FOR A SPECIES

The UK's Belfast Zoo has announced the birth of a Rothschild's giraffe named Henry. There are about 2,000 of the endangered giraffes in the wild. The zoo called Henry "handsome" and said his mother, Casey, is "doing a great job."



Henry with his herd

ON THE COVER: GETTY IMAGES (3); NATHANIEL HARRINGTON; ON THIS PAGE: NASA, ESA, CSA, STSCI; GETTY IMAGES; BELFAST ZOO; BRENDAN CHAVEZ, COURTESY ALLEN EXPLORATION; HASBRO; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (2); AP



An image of the Cartwheel Galaxy

Webb telescope releases new image

NASA (the US space agency) has released new images taken by the James Webb Space Telescope. This telescope, which launched in December 2021 and released its first images on July 11, is the most powerful telescope ever put into space.

The new images show the Cartwheel Galaxy, which is located 500 million light years away from our planet. (A light year is the distance light travels in one Earth year, about 6 trillion miles.) Two smaller galaxies were also visible in one of the images.

The Cartwheel gets its name from its wheel shape. It has an outer ring that looks like a tire, another ring in the center, and bright lights between the two that look like spokes. The Cartwheel has this shape because of a collision

between two galaxies. About 700 to 800 million years ago, a smaller galaxy ran into and through a larger, spiral one. Galactic collisions are not unusual, but it is rare for them to produce such a distinctive shape. The two rings of the galaxy are currently expanding out away from the center of the collision—"like ripples in a pond after a stone is tossed into it," NASA said in a statement.

The Cartwheel Galaxy, discovered in 1941, has been photographed by the Hubble Space Telescope, which was launched in 1990 and is still in use. The Webb telescope, however, is able to photograph infrared light, which allows it to look past space dust that clouded earlier pictures of the galaxy and provide a more detailed view of the galaxy's core, outer ring, and "spokes."

A POTATO PAIR

To celebrate the 70th birthday of the classic Mr. Potato Head toy, the game company Hasbro has created a pair of grandparent figures named Yamma and Yampa. Complete with vintage glasses and other accessories, they're "our new favorite Grandtaters" and "the hippest spuds in town," Hasbro said on Instagram.



FOUND TREASURE

A trove of 366-year-old treasures was discovered on the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean. Divers found gold chains, pendants, emeralds, and other "marvels" from the Spanish ship *Nuestra Señora de las Maravillas*, which sank in the Bahamas in 1656. The treasures will be displayed in a museum.



Yamma and Yampa



National news

WOW!
More than 51.1 million children are expected to attend US public schools this year.



Some students returned to class on August 1.

Cost of supplies increases



Some back-to-school supplies cost up to 15% more this year than last year, a retail analytics firm has found. The price of backpacks is up nearly 12%. This is due to inflation (the rate of increase in the prices of goods and services). As a result, consumers are expected to buy fewer items and focus on the basics.

US students begin returning to school

Students across the US have begun returning to school for the 2022–23 academic year. Schools are opening with updated policies that more closely resemble how schools operated before the pandemic. Meanwhile, a shortage of teachers is posing a challenge for many districts.

What policies have changed?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC, the US health protection agency) has created new recommendations for schools. It will no longer call for people to social distance by staying six feet apart. Students who are exposed to Covid-19 will not need to be tested regularly to remain in school. Instead, the CDC is suggesting regular testing if a community experiences a high number of cases.

What are schools doing?

Most US public schools now make mask-wearing optional. Students and staff can wear a mask if they choose to, but it is not required. Many districts are continuing to pursue other ways of reducing the spread of the virus, such as by cleaning and disinfecting classrooms. Some are working to improve their school buildings' ventilation (air flow) systems, which has been shown to help prevent infection.

What is happening with teachers?

A shortage of teachers is causing problems for many schools. The Clark County district in Nevada started the academic year in August, with 1,372 unfilled teacher positions. About 88% of Illinois districts don't have enough teachers. Experts said

the reasons for the shortage include low pay and exhaustion from working through the pandemic. Districts are coping by adopting new strategies. Florida is asking military veterans to lead instruction, for example, while Arizona is allowing college students to teach classes. Parts of Texas are shortening the school week to four days.

What will happen next?

Most districts will have begun their school year by early September. Officials around the country said students' health and well-being will be a top priority. "We have to focus on making sure our kids experience joy, value, and connections in school," Michael Cornell, superintendent of Hamburg Central School District in western New York, told CBS News.

WORD OF THE WEEK

SENATE

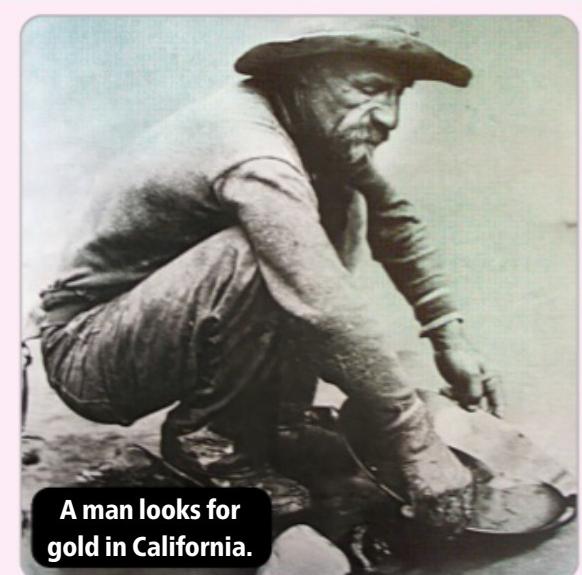
The words "senate" and "senator" come from the Latin *senatus*, which in turn is from *senex*, meaning "old man." The use of "Senate" as the name for one of the two parts of the US Congress was taken from the ancient Roman Senate. This was an elected council of older members who were chosen for their wisdom.

THE WEEK IN HISTORY

August 19, 1848

News of gold in California is reported

On August 19, 1848, news of gold in California reached the East Coast when the *New York Herald* reported it. Thousands of people in the East moved West to find gold. Most of them did not find it, but they remained there, a migration that came to be known as the California Gold Rush. In a few years, the non-native population of California went from about 1,000 people to more than 100,000.



A man looks for gold in California.

National news



The US Supreme Court

Support for Supreme Court drops

Public disapproval of the US Supreme Court is at its highest level in more than 20 years. In a survey by the polling firm Gallup, about 43% of people said they approve of the court while 55% said they disapprove. The number of people who have "a great deal" or "quite a lot" of confidence in the court has fallen from 36% a year ago to 25% today. Part of the poll was conducted after the court handed down several recent controversial decisions.



The new statue

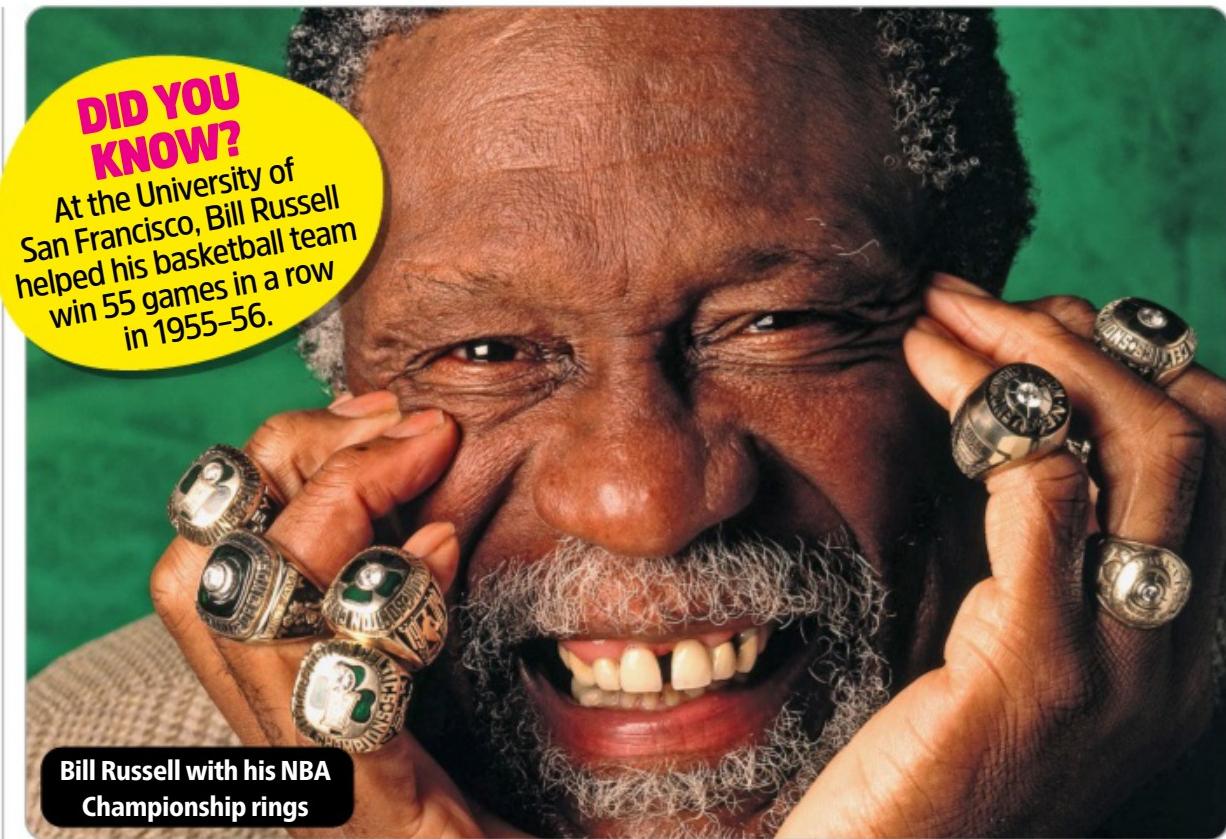
Amelia Earhart statue unveiled

A statue of Amelia Earhart, the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean, has been installed in the US Capitol's National Statuary Hall in Washington, DC. The 7-foot-tall statue—a gift from the state of Kansas, where Earhart was born in 1897—depicts her in a flight jacket. "When I look at her, I see inspiration," said the president of the Atchison Amelia Earhart Foundation, which paid for the statue.



Famous hippo is now a big sister

Fiona, a 5-year-old hippopotamus at the Cincinnati Zoo in Ohio, has become a big sister. Her mother, Bibi, gave birth to a healthy baby on August 3. The new hippo, whose gender hasn't been revealed, weighed about 60 pounds and will join Fiona and father Tucker in a few weeks after bonding with Bibi. In 2017, Fiona was born prematurely (early) and became a symbol of survival to the nation.



Bill Russell with his NBA Championship rings

Legendary athlete is remembered

Tributes poured in this week for basketball player and civil rights activist Bill Russell, who died on July 31 at age 88. He was remembered for changing the game of basketball and for speaking out against discrimination.

Russell was born in 1934 in Monroe, Louisiana, where he and his family experienced racism. His family moved to Oakland, California, when he was 9, and his mother died three years later. His father, who owned a trucking business, taught Russell to work hard and be self-reliant.

At McClymonds High School, Russell was a star basketball player. He earned a scholarship to the University of San Francisco, where he led the team to two college championships. At the 1956 Olympics, he won a gold medal with the USA basketball team.

That year, he joined the Boston Celtics, a National Basketball Association (NBA) team. Russell's astonishing ability to block shots and rebound the ball as a defensive player changed



Bill Russell in 1969

the game. Red Auerbach, a longtime Celtics coach and general manager, called Russell "the single most devastating force in the history of the game."

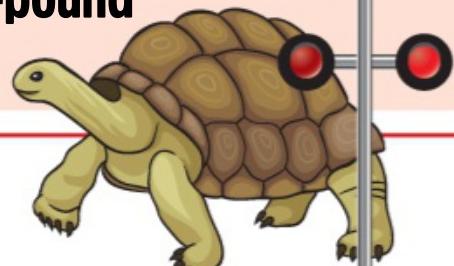
When the Celtics named Russell head coach in 1966, he became the first Black person to lead a team in a major US sport. He led the Celtics to 11 NBA championship titles as a player and coach and entered the Basketball Hall of Fame in 1975.

Throughout his life, Russell advocated for equality. In 1961, he refused to play in a Celtics game in Kentucky after his Black teammates were refused service in a coffee shop there. He marched with civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Amid threats from white people, he co-founded a basketball camp for children of all races in Mississippi.

In 2011, President Barack Obama awarded Russell the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award. Obama described Russell as "someone who stood up for the rights and dignity of all men."

THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

"Rail service interrupted when 110-pound tortoise wanders onto track" UPI





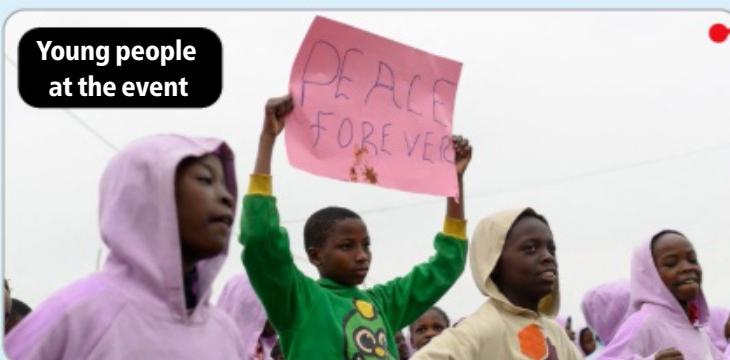
Around the world



The whale

Paris, France Rescuers help stranded beluga whale

Rescuers have been trying to save an underweight beluga whale that was found in the River Seine, in Paris. The 13-foot-long mammal usually lives in the cold waters of the Arctic, and experts are not sure why it swam up the river. They have tried to help the whale regain the strength it needs to return to the sea, offering it fish to eat and injecting it with vitamins and antibiotics to fight off a possible illness.



Young people at the event

Nairobi, Kenya Artists promote peace at election time

Ahead of Kenya's presidential elections on August 9, young people are using art to encourage peace and unity. Last weekend, about 100 children gathered in the capital, Nairobi, to try to prevent disagreements over election results that have led to violence in the past. Some people sang and danced in outfits made by artists representing more than 20 Kenyan ethnic groups. Others told a story about harmony between the tribes.



The sinkhole

Atacama desert, Chile Sinkhole appears and grows larger

A large sinkhole (a hole created when the ground collapses) has formed in the Atacama desert in Chile. The hole appeared suddenly near an underground copper mine. On July 30, it measured 82 feet across and was thought to be more than 650 feet deep. By August 7, it had grown to 164 feet across. Scientists are trying to understand what made the sinkhole appear.

The Netherlands Water shortage announced

Following a heat wave and very low rainfall, the Dutch government declared a water shortage on August 3. Many rivers have begun to fill with silt (a sandy mineral), which restricts water flow, and very little water is coming in from other countries. The government formed a team to manage supplies and asked the public to conserve water.



A marina has dried up.



Massif du Nord, Haiti Tree is rediscovered

A native magnolia tree, a species that hasn't been seen since 1925, was recently discovered in Haiti's Massif du Nord mountain range. The tree was originally identified in the Morne Colombo forest, which was later destroyed by deforestation (when large areas of forest are cut down). The tree was at risk of becoming extinct, but experts said their new discovery means that more of the plants could be found and the species could be saved.



A magnolia flower

Around the world



Gaza Three-day clash ends

On August 7, Israel and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) agreed to stop fighting after three days of conflict. It began when Israel said it was responding to a threat and attacked Gaza on August 5. The PIJ then launched its own attack. Gaza officials said 44 Palestinians, almost half of them civilians, were killed due to the fighting.



Tien Shan, Kyrgyzstan

Annual celebration of fashion is held

The 2022 World Nomads Fashion Festival was held in the Tien Shan mountains in Kyrgyzstan to showcase outfits that mix ancient and modern clothing styles together. Designers from about 20 different countries attended the event, which also included dance performances. Visitors also viewed traditional yurts, tent dwellings with colorful carpets that can be moved from place to place.



Yemen

Warring parties agree to pause fighting

The leaders of Yemen's government and leaders of a group of rebels have extended their truce (agreement to pause fighting) for two more months. A four-month truce began in April, and many people had feared that the war between the groups would return when the truce ended in August. This has been the first nationwide halt to the war, which has led to severe food shortages for many people, in six years.



Cotonou, Benin Statue that honors ancient history unveiled

A nearly 100-foot-tall bronze statue was unveiled at a ceremony in Cotonou, Benin's capital city. Representing the history of the kingdoms that came to form Benin, the statue bears the likeness of Queen Hangbe. She is said to have founded an all-female army, known as the Dahomey Amazon Warriors, that protected Dahomey, a kingdom that is now part of modern Benin.



Wellington, New Zealand Museum documents Covid-19 response

Te Papa Tongarewa, New Zealand's national museum, is collecting artifacts that document what life was like for the nation during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic. Objects include face masks and artwork depicting messages of hope. The museum aims "to get multiple voices and objects that have multiple points of view," Claire Regnault told *The Guardian*.



The big debate

Should cities have car-free streets?

Walking streets create public spaces, but some say they pave the way for problems.

What you need to know

- Cities around the US and world have converted thousands of miles of streets into pedestrian-friendly areas, where cars are prohibited or limited.
- In 2024, non-essential cars will be banned in the center of Paris, France, taking 100,000 cars off the road daily.
- Studies show that 100 million Americans do not have a park within a 10-minute walk of their home.
- Car-free streets are also known as safe, open, or slow streets and pedestrian zones or malls.

Dozens of US cities, and many around the world, have closed some streets to cars to create more outdoor spaces for residents to enjoy. These efforts grew during the Covid-19 pandemic, and a recent survey found that many US cities plan to make the changes permanent. Car-free streets have become a place for residents to gather, play, dine, shop, and listen to live music. But the closed-off streets have also increased car and truck traffic on nearby roadways, which upsets some people. While many people want more pedestrian zones like these, others worry they disrupt everyday life. What do you think? Should cities have car-free streets?

YES Three reasons why cities should have car-free streets

- 1 Car-free streets create more outdoor space for people to enjoy, especially in crowded cities, and build a sense of community.
- 2 Foot traffic helps existing businesses thrive and new ones, such as food trucks, grow.
- 3 Reducing the number of cars on the street cuts air and noise pollution and increases traffic safety.



DID YOU KNOW?

In the early 1900s, New York City had 50 "play streets" that were closed to traffic so kids and families could play.

Yes—more outdoor space is always better

Outdoor and green spaces can be hard to come by in cities. Opening up car-free streets creates more of these spaces for everyone and encourages people to get outside, interact with neighbors, and build a sense of community. Shops and restaurants on those streets benefit from increased foot traffic from potential customers, which helps boost sales. Plus, slow streets encourage new businesses, such as food trucks and outdoor vendors, to develop in the area. Cars cause accidents and air and noise pollution. Closing streets to cars motivates people to use public transportation or ride bikes instead, which is safer and better for everyone.

No—car-free streets cause other problems

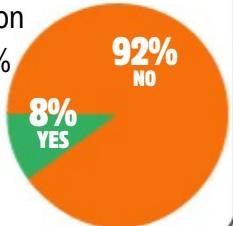
More outdoor space sounds like a good idea, but car-free streets cause traffic congestion and detours in surrounding areas. That makes it harder for residents to commute to work or school and for people such as delivery and truck drivers to do their jobs. Businesses on open streets can suffer, because foot traffic doesn't always mean more sales, and they could lose customers who want to drive to their shop but can't get there or find parking. Even when streets are car-free, there are usually still scooters and bikes. People, especially kids, may not be looking out for these kinds of vehicles, which could put them at risk.

NO Three reasons why cities should not have car-free streets

- 1 Car-free streets create traffic jams in surrounding areas and make it harder for people to go about their daily lives.
- 2 Businesses don't always make more money from foot traffic, and they can lose customers who drive.
- 3 Streets closed to cars put people, especially kids, in the path of bikes and scooters.

LAST WEEK'S POLL

Last week, we asked whether planting trees is hurting nature. Most of you think we should keep on planting: 92% of you said no, and 8% said yes.



What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, have a parent or guardian visit theweekjunior.com/polls with you so you can vote in our debate. Vote YES if you think cities should have car-free streets or NO if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

The goal of the big debate is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.

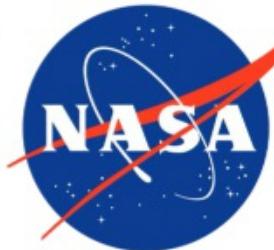
People

Leading space science

Gregory Robinson is retiring after a long and distinguished career at NASA.

After more than 30 years at NASA, the US space agency, Gregory Robinson recently announced his retirement. Starting in 2018, he oversaw the program behind the James Webb Telescope, the most powerful telescope ever put into space. In a press release, Robinson called his time at NASA "a dream career at an agency that allows you to reach for new heights so that we can reveal the unknown for the benefit of all humanity."

Robinson, age 62, was born in rural Virginia to a family of 11 children. His parents were sharecroppers (farmers who do not own their land). Until fifth grade, his school was segregated (black children were unjustly separated from white children). A talented football player, Robinson earned a scholarship to Virginia Union University, where he graduated with a degree in math. He went



on to earn a degree in electrical engineering from Howard University and a master's in business from Averett College.

He began working at NASA in 1989. He performed several jobs for the agency and supervised more than 100 missions. When

Robinson took over the Webb program, it had gone through several delays. Many NASA officials say he turned the program around. The Webb launched in late 2021 on a mission to see farther into space than any telescope has before. And it did, capturing breathtaking images of some of the earliest galaxies ever formed. (See the most recent image on p3.)

Robinson was one of the few Black men in a high-ranking role at NASA. "People seeing me in this role is an inspiration," he told *The New York Times*. "It's acknowledging they can be there too."



Gregory Robinson

TEAM EFFORT
About 20,000 people from around the world were a part of the James Webb Space Telescope program.

Artist makes return

Legendary singer-songwriter Joni Mitchell brought the audience to tears at the Newport Folk Festival in Rhode Island on July 24, performing her first full set in 20 years. Mitchell, 78, is famous for her jazzy folk songs, such as "River." Her career spans more than 50 years and includes nine Grammys (top music award). She told CBS News that although she wasn't nervous when fellow musician Brandi Carlile invited her onto the stage, she wasn't sure she'd be good. She later added, "But I didn't sound too bad tonight."



Joni Mitchell



Vin Scully

An iconic sports voice

Vin Scully, one of most famous sportscasters of all time, died on August 2 at age 94. He grew up in Bronx, New York, listening to sports broadcasters over his family's radio. In 1950, he got his first big break as a broadcaster for Major League Baseball team the Dodgers. Scully retired from the role in 2016 after 67 seasons, saying a childhood dream had come to pass. That same year, he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom (the nation's highest civilian honor) from President Barack Obama, who called his voice "the soundtrack of summer" for generations of fans.

OVERHEARD



"When we find a way to serve other people, we see how compassion and empathy can really make a lasting, positive impact."

TV personality Oprah Winfrey, age 58, during a speech at a fundraising event in July. The event raised \$1.1 million for Project Angel Food, an organization that sends meals to people with illnesses.



Animals and the environment

DID YOU KNOW?

When threatened, common toads can produce toxic liquid from the bumps on their back and make predators sick.



A common toad on a log

Frogs vs. toads

Frogs and toads are two distinct types of amphibians. Toads have dry, bumpy skin, while the skin of frogs is wet-looking and smooth. Frogs also have longer legs and hop around. Toads' legs are shorter and better suited to crawling. Frogs don't cope well far away from water, but toads do fine in dry areas.



A common frog

Toads found to climb trees

An odd place to look for an animal that lives on the ground near water. However, the results of a new survey revealed that common toads in the UK are skillful tree climbers.

The surprising discovery was made by researchers from the University of Cambridge, working with Froglife, a charity dedicated to amphibians (animals such as frogs and toads that divide their time between being on land and in water). The team looked at reports from volunteers who were studying special nest boxes, as part of programs dedicated to

studying small mammals like dormice (rodents that can be found in Europe, Asia, and Africa) and bats. "We couldn't believe what we found," said Nida Alfulaij of the People's Trust for Endangered Species, which supported the work. "We're used to discovering woodland birds and other small mammals in nest boxes, but we hadn't considered finding amphibians in them."

More than 50 common toads were found in very unexpected places: in parts of trees that are usually used by bats; in nest boxes designed for dormice; and even in old bird's nests. That's such a surprisingly

high number that the researchers think tree-climbing must be a common toad habit—it's just never been noticed before. They say this shows how sharing data between conservation surveys with different goals can lead to new discoveries—even about species that experts believe they know well. The discoveries also confirm how important tree hollows, cracks, and cavities are to all sorts of creatures.

It's still unclear how high the toads climbed. They were spotted up to about 10 feet high in trees—but this was as far up as the volunteers were looking, so the toads could be going even higher. The reasons for their climbing are also unknown. Researchers guess toads could be looking for food, hiding from predators, or avoiding pests such as the toad fly.



Toads like to use dormouse nest boxes.



PLACE OF THE WEEK

Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Texas

The Caddo name comes from a group of Native American tribes collectively known as the Caddo Nation. Caddo Lake can span up to 32,000 acres and holds as many as 86 different species of fish. These include the American paddlefish, which has been swimming in these waters for 350 million years and is the oldest living species in North America. Alligators also live in the lake, and cypress trees grow in the wetlands surrounding it. The wetlands are also an important spot for migratory birds, such as great egrets and prothonotary warblers, which nest here in warm weather.



A great egret



WOW!
Coral reefs
support an estimated
25% of all known
marine species.



A spinner dolphin
in the Indian Ocean

Dolphin poop helps save coral reefs

The poop of spinner dolphins could be a key to saving coral reefs, according to a new study by the Zoological Society London. The world's reefs are at risk from bleaching (when reefs force out the algae living in their tissue and often die).

Researchers made underwater observations and recordings of the dolphins' activities near reefs in the Maldives and Chagos Archipelago in the Indian Ocean.

Spinner dolphins, which get their name from their ability to spin their bodies several times in the air, are one of the most common

dolphin species. They absorb nitrogen, an essential nutrient, during the day. When they relieve themselves near the reefs, they inject nitrogen into the area. According to scientists, this helps improve the productivity and resilience of the reefs.

Coral reefs are important because they protect the coastline from erosion, provide jobs for local communities, and are a source of food and new medicine. Researcher Tom B. Letessier said the study's findings make "the strongest possible case for protecting the dolphins in order to save these reefs."

Animal of the Week

Rimatara lorikeet



People are working to save the Rimatara lorikeet, such as by planting trees and eliminating rats that prey on the bird. There are only about 1,500 of the colorful birds left in the wild, with 500 found on the small Polynesian island of Rimatara.

- **LIFE SPAN:** Unknown
- **HABITAT:** Small islands in the Pacific Ocean
- **SIZE:** About 7 inches long
- **DIET:** Nectar, pollen, and small seeds
- **FUN FACT:** Rimatara lorikeets are known for constantly chatting with one another.



Good week / Bad week



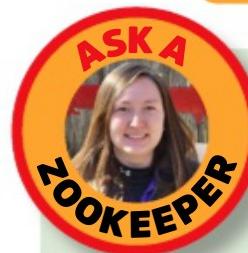
Rhinos

Nineteen white rhinos have been moved to a park in Mozambique, a country where they have been extinct for 40 years. Conservationists hope to move more than 40 black and white rhinos to the park in the next two to three years.



Oregon wildlife

Snapping turtles, like the one above, are native to the eastern US. They've been seen recently in Oregon, where they could pose a threat to native species by competing with them for food or nesting spots. They may also be eating small native turtles.



Tabitha Brown

Mammals zookeeper,
Tulsa Zoo

Both monkeys and humans are primates and are also social animals. Both of us use sight as our main sense, which is why our eyes are on the front of our face. Monkeys also have very similar hands, with an opposable thumb that helps them grip and hold on to things.



A bonnet monkey

"How are monkeys similar to humans?"

Savannah, 9, Michigan

Do you have a question for a zookeeper? Send it to hello@theweekjunior.com. Find out more about the Tulsa Zoo at tulsazoo.org.



All about state fairs

A big celebration of

It's that time of year for one of the nation's most popular traditions.

As the summer begins to wind down, a series of American cultural events is just gearing up. Each year, people flock to state fairs in 48 states and Washington, DC. The two biggest fairs take place in Texas, from late September to October, and in Minnesota, from late August to September.



Elkanah Watson

The first state fairs
As far back as the Roman Empire, people celebrated holidays with fairs involving games and contests. Over time, fairs began to focus more on agriculture. In 1807, Elkanah Watson of Pittsfield, Massachusetts, organized the first agricultural fair in the US—consisting entirely of sheep-shearing demonstrations. Soon other farmers hosted public gatherings where they could show their animals and win prizes. These became popular enough that New York organized the first official state fair in 1841, drawing more than 10,000 visitors. As fairs caught on across the country, they began showcasing new technology, entertainers, and other crowd-pleasing attractions.



A state fair in 1844

What makes state fairs special

State fairs today are a source of pride and an opportunity to show off what the state has to offer. Unlike county fairs, which usually last for a few days, state fair festivities typically go on for one to three weeks. During that time, up to 2 million people visit each state's fairgrounds—some of which span hundreds of acres of land. Several states, including Florida, Indiana, Iowa, Missouri, and New York, allow guests to camp on or near the fairgrounds for days.



Fair foods

State fairs are known for their food—and since many people walk around while eating, a lot of it is handheld. If it's not in a bowl, basket, or bucket, it's probably on a stick. Here are four fair classics.



Pickle dog

Variations of this creation have appeared at several different fairs. In Minnesota, it's a pickle spear rolled in cream cheese and pastrami. In South Carolina, the "Dilly Dilly Dog" is a pickle stuffed into a corndog.





food and fun



YOU BUTTER BELIEVE IT

Crafting the Iowa State Fair's famous Butter Cow takes 16 hours and 600 pounds of butter.

Corn in a cup

Popular at the Iowa State Fair since 2015, this Mexican-inspired cup is filled with sweet corn kernels, mayonnaise, cheese, sour cream, lime juice, spices, and chorizo or pork sausage.



Pizza cone

The Florida State Fair found a way to make pizza even more portable: Fill a cone of bread with tomato sauce, pepperoni, and cheese.



Deep-fried cheese curds

A favorite at the Wisconsin State Fair and other fairs nationwide, these chunks of fresh cheese are dipped in batter and fried for a crispy, melty snack.



A fair game

Something for everyone

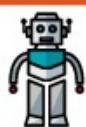
Animal exhibitions are still a state fair standard, along with a wide variety of other options. Some hold talent contests, bake-offs, and wacky competitions, such as rubber chicken throwing, duct tape creations, beard growing, and Colorado's "Pet Rock Olympics." Sculptures carved out of butter have been a favorite since the early 1900s. Fairgoers can also see concerts, comedy performances, sporting events, and fireworks. For many, the most exciting part of the fair is the "midway," a term that originated in 1893 at a world's fair in Chicago, Illinois, and refers to an area with carnival rides and games. Guests can ride a 155-foot-tall Ferris wheel in Florida, a 200-foot giant slide in Wisconsin, and a half-mile-long "SkyGlider" in Ohio.



A butter sculptor carves a dairy princess.

Back in business

In 2019, state and agricultural fairs throughout the US brought in \$4.67 billion. Many were canceled during the pandemic, but others found creative alternatives. Minnesota live-streamed its butter-sculpting demonstrations, and Ohio offered a kit for people to make their own butter cows at home. Wisconsin, Arizona, and other states held drive-through food festivals, while Colorado had virtual animal judging and auctions. Now that most events are back, Americans can look forward to their fair favorites—whether it's eating fried candy, riding a mechanical bull, or winning a jumbo stuffed animal—in person again.



Science and technology



MEGA MONSTER
Megalodons weighed up to 75 tons, more than 10 elephants put together.

A great white shark off the coast of Mexico

Why the world's largest shark died out

About 20 million years ago, there lived an ocean giant with teeth the size of a human hand and a jaw wide enough to swallow a person whole. Then, 3.6 million years ago, the megalodon disappeared. Exactly why that happened is a scientific mystery, but a new study suggests that the mighty creature may have lost out to the much smaller—but still ferocious—great white shark.

The megalodon was the largest shark to ever live. Based on studies of teeth and other fossils found in oceans around the world, scientists believe the megalodon was about three times the size of the largest great white sharks. Because it lived so long ago, it is difficult to know what the megalodon's life was like or exactly what it ate. However, an international team of researchers studied its fossilized teeth to try to find out.

In today's ecosystems, animals that are higher up the food chain (meaning they have fewer predators) have lower levels of a mineral called zinc in their bodies. The researchers analyzed teeth from ancient megalodons and great whites

and found that members of both species had similar amounts of zinc in their teeth. That meant the two kinds of sharks were in the same spot on the food chain. In their case, they were both apex predators (at the top of the food chain with no natural predators) and ate the same types of prey, such as fish and seals.

This finding supported a theory that great whites, though smaller, could have managed to snap up most of the food the megalodons needed to survive. If that was true, the smaller shark played a role in driving the much bigger shark to extinction. Other factors could have included climate and water temperatures. The research also

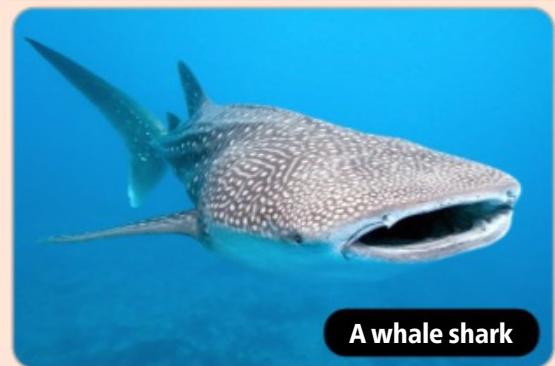
supported the idea that a predator does not have to be the biggest to beat out others of its kind.

Scientists will have to do more research to figure out exactly what happened in those ancient ocean ecosystems and to the megalodon in particular. However they may have met their end, megalodons "played an important role in shaping the marine ecosystems we know today," said Kenshu Shimada, an author of the study.



A drawing of a megalodon

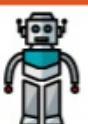
The shark that eats plants



A whale shark

Scientists have believed for many years that sharks were carnivores (meat eaters), feeding only on fish and other animals. But researchers studying whale sharks at Ningaloo Reef in Australia recently discovered that this notorious predator also eats plants and algae (small, plant-like organisms that live in water).

Whale sharks swim through the water with their mouths open to eat tiny animals called krill. In the process, they also eat floating plants, such as seaweed. Over time, scientists believe the creatures evolved the ability to digest some of these plants. That makes the whale shark, which can grow up to 60 feet long, the world's largest omnivore (animal that eats both meat and plants).



Patch predicts concussions in athletes

Scientists from Michigan State University have developed a neck patch that could determine whether an athlete has gotten a concussion—a type of brain injury that occurs when a hit to the head or body causes the brain to move back and forth rapidly. The patch could help coaches, parents, and medical professionals quickly diagnose concussions and ensure that athletes get immediate medical care.

The thin patch is about the size of a Band-Aid and is worn on the back of the neck. It is made of a special type of plastic material that produces an electric signal when the neck moves. The strength of that signal measures the speed of the movement, which

can help predict how likely it is that the person has a concussion.

Nearly 4 million concussions occur every year in the US due to sports-related injuries. They can happen while participating in a wide variety of sports, such as football, wrestling, hockey, soccer, baseball, and basketball. There are devices that can be placed inside a sports helmet to predict concussions, but these aren't always accurate if the helmet moves but the athlete's head doesn't. In addition, not every sport requires a helmet.

The developers of the new patch tested it on a dummy and found that it was accurate about 90% of the time. They will need to perform further testing in human athletes to ensure its effectiveness.

YOUNG ATHLETES
About 30 million children and teenagers in the US play an organized sport.



Concussions can happen in football and other sports.

The Monk Skin Tone Scale



Tech adopts wider range of skin tones

Google has worked with a Harvard University professor on a new range of skin tones to help technology be more accurate, inclusive, and diverse. The Monk Skin Tone Scale, created by a professor named Ellis Monk, includes 10 skin tones and replaces a scale with six tones that has been used since 1975.

Technology such as image searches, photo filters, and facial recognition have not traditionally been designed to include a wide

variety of skin tones, so they often don't work well for people with darker skin. For example, Monk said, if the technology uses a limited number of skin tones, an online search for "cute babies" might only turn up babies with lighter skin. "That's not a very inclusive experience for people at all," he said.

Monk and Google surveyed 3,000 people across the US and found that a significant number of them felt better represented by the new scale.



A tiny shed with many functions



The chicken coop on a Gardenrobe

A company that designs environmentally friendly structures has created a small shed packed with practical uses. The new Gardenrobe, made by Pin-Up Houses, is only 20 feet long and 4 feet wide but includes space for seating, garden supply storage, and

rainwater collection, plus a chicken coop and pigeon loft.

The solar-powered shed generates enough electricity to operate and even charge devices. Made with wood and plywood, it takes about two hours to assemble and is easy to take down and move.



Photos of the week

2022
ASTRONOMY
PHOTOGRAPHER
OF THE YEAR
FINALISTS



Scenes in the sky

This image, titled "IC1871: A Little Devil Riding on the Head of a Dragon," was taken by Binyu Wang of China.



Natural patterns

Abhijit Patil of the US shot this photo, "Badwater Milky Way."



Photos of the week



Stunning sun

Simon Tang of the US captured this photo, called "Clouds of Hydrogen Gas."



Ring of beauty

"Saturn and Its Moons" was shot by Flávio Fortunato of Brazil.



Glowing globule

"The Crescent Nebula" was taken by Bray Falls of the US.

Burst of light

Lionel Majzik of Namibia took this image, "Comet C/2021 A1 (Leonard)."

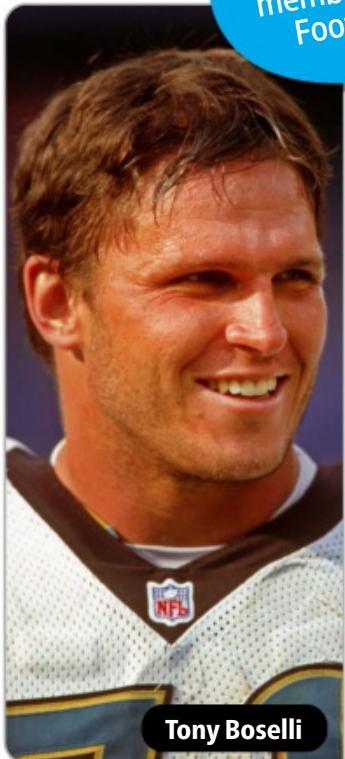




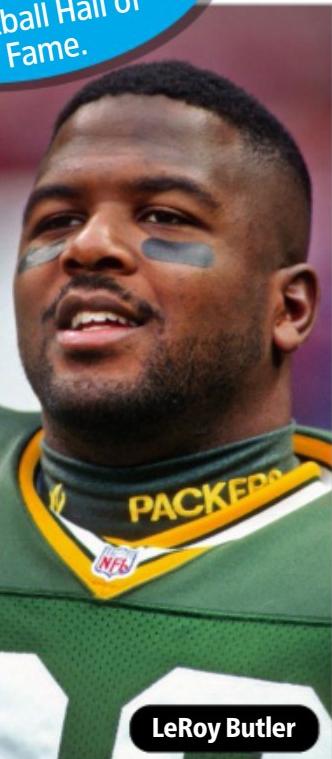
DID YOU KNOW?

There are now 362 members of the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Sports



Tony Boselli



LeRoy Butler



Richard Seymour



Dick Vermeil



Teams to play abroad
In the upcoming NFL season, five games will be held in other countries. In October, three games will be played in London, UK, including one at Wembley Stadium. In November, teams will play in Munich, Germany, for the first time before the action heads to Mexico City, Mexico.

NFL adds Hall of Fame members

On August 6, the National Football League (NFL) held a ceremony at Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium in Canton, Ohio, to induct eight new members into its Hall of Fame. The Class of 2022 features six former players, a legendary coach, and a former official. Members receive special gold jackets.

One player inducted was Tony Boselli. Once the water boy for his high school's varsity football team, he became one of the best offensive linemen in the NFL. He spent seven seasons with the Jacksonville Jaguars, starting with the team's first season in 1995. He is now the first former Jaguars player in the Hall of Fame.

Former Green Bay Packers safety LeRoy Butler, who won the Super Bowl in 1997 with his team, is

another member of the new class. Aside from his athletic abilities, he is known for starting the "Lambeau Leap" tradition. That is when a Green Bay player dives into the stands after scoring at Lambeau Field, their home stadium.

Cliff Branch, who played on three Oakland Raiders championship teams and died in 2019, became the seventh member of the Raiders' 1974 offense to enter the Hall of Fame. That sets a record for the most Hall of Famers from a single unit. The three other players enshrined this year were Richard Seymour, a New England Patriots legend; Bryant Young of the San Francisco 49ers; and Sam Mills, who spent most of his 12-season career with the New Orleans Saints. Mills, who died in 2005, had

often been told he was too small to become a pro athlete. His motto was "Keep Pounding."

Dick Vermeil, who coached the Philadelphia Eagles, St. Louis Rams, and Kansas City Chiefs, and former referee Art McNally, who is known as "The Father of Modern Officiating," rounded out the class. McNally is the league's first former on-field official in the Hall of Fame.

Two days before the ceremony, the NFL's annual Hall of Fame game, a tradition since 1962, was played at Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium. The participating teams are chosen based on connections to the inductees. This year, the Las Vegas Raiders competed against the Jacksonville Jaguars. The Raiders were dominant throughout and won, 27–11. The game marked the start of NFL preseason competitions.



THIS WEEK'S WINNERS...

CLUB SOCCER

The English Premier League's new season began on August 5, with Arsenal FC defeating Crystal Palace, 2–0. The next day, Leeds United beat the Wolverhampton Wanderers, 2–1. Leeds is coached by American Jesse Marsch and has two American starting players, Tyler Adams and Brenden Aaronson. On August 7, defending champions Manchester City beat West Ham United, 2–0.



Ashleigh Buhai

GOLF

On August 7, Ashleigh Buhai won the AIG Women's Open, one of the major women's golf tournaments. The South African beat In Gee Chun of South Korea on the fourth hole of a sudden-death playoff. It is her first major win.

INDYCAR RACING

Scott Dixon won the Music City Grand Prix, a race on the streets of Nashville, Tennessee, on August 7. It was his 53rd career IndyCar Series win. He has the second most career wins in series history.

Sports



FUN FACT

Since 1934, all Major League baseballs have featured 108 red stitches.



Juan Soto, right,
with Wil Myers

MLB preps for postseason push

The deadline for Major League Baseball (MLB) teams to make their final trades of the season was at 6 pm Eastern Time on August 2. Leading up to it, several top players were acquired by teams hoping for a boost as the postseason approaches.

The biggest trade took place hours before the deadline, as outfielder Juan Soto and first baseman Josh Bell went from the Washington Nationals to the San Diego Padres, who are in second place in the National League (NL) West. Soto is a two-time All Star and helped the Nationals win the World Series in 2019. The Padres also acquired top relief pitcher Josh Hader from the Milwaukee Brewers. The Nationals got several players in the deals.

The Seattle Mariners showed their playoff intent by trading for starting pitcher Luis Castillo

from the Cincinnati Reds. He was one of the best pitchers available. Meanwhile, the Houston Astros made moves to improve their hitting. They traded for Boston Red Sox catcher Christian Vázquez and also picked up Trey Mancini, a first baseman and designated hitter, from the Baltimore Orioles.

With less than two months left in the regular season, the Los Angeles Dodgers of the NL West have the best record in the MLB. The New York Mets of the NL East, the second best NL team, have a chance to make a deep run in the playoffs due to pitchers Jacob Degrom and Max Scherzer. The St. Louis Cardinals and Milwaukee Brewers are battling to win the NL Central. The New York Yankees and Houston Astros hold big leads in the American League (AL) East and West, while three teams are in close competition in the AL Central.



COACH OF THE WEEK

Coach's Name: **Danielle Caggiano**

Gym: **Indigo Gymnastics Center**

"Coach Dani is amazing. She is really kind, helpful, and so nice. She is always encouraging us to try new things. In our competitions, she doesn't really care about winning. She just cares about having fun. If we ever mess up, she will say it's OK and to try again. Also, if I ever do anything wrong, she will correct it in a nice way. She taught me to do so many things and helped me so much with all my skills. She is the best coach I've ever had!" Catalina, 9, New Jersey



To nominate a Coach of the Week, send your coach's name, photo, sport, and team to hello@theweekjunior.com. Include your name, age, state, and a few reasons why your coach is great.

SPOTLIGHT ON...



Ellie Shahbo

AGE: 22 SPORT: FIELD HOCKEY TEAM: HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Early days I grew up in England. At my school, field hockey was mandatory. The first year I had to play, I was 8 or 9. I was more interested in books, but I volunteered to play goalie. A lot of people wanted to be in goal, partially because they didn't want to run around. That was definitely my reasoning for it. The coach picked me, and it just so happened that I wasn't afraid of the ball.

Dream team I chose to go to Harvard because I wanted to join a program I could help build. When I committed, we had a pretty low ranking. This year, we had the nation's top defense and made it to the championship Final Four for the first time. I'm incredibly proud.

Pre-game ritual About five hours before our game, we'll take a brisk walk or play Spike Ball on the river. Later, I go through notes on things I need to remember for myself and about the other team. Then I sit and visualize some saves. I always breathe out while I put on my helmet. The moment I do that, I let go of the anxiety.

Best opponent Goalkeeping is a very solitary position, and it's easy to compare your stats to other goalies'. It took me a while to step back and realize that I enjoyed it more when I competed just with myself. You can't control what someone else is doing and how they're performing.

Clean start After a good or bad day, a mental trick I learned is to "shower it off." Let whatever happened wash off your body, take some time to not think about it, then come back and learn from it.

Wise words One piece of advice that stuck with me as a kid was that success is when preparation meets opportunity. I have that written on the inside of my goalkeeping gear.



Arts and entertainment



FUN FACT
Pop star Ariana Grande
was part of the original
Broadway cast of
13: The Musical.

Eli Golden (center)
in *13: The Musical*

Movie about middle school

In *13: The Musical*, a boy moves to a new town and learns about being open to experiences, making friends, and forgiveness.

The challenges of middle school and growing up are brought to life in song in the new film *13: The Musical*. It's an adaptation of a show that debuted on Broadway in 2008. The musical has been a popular production at schools and camps, and the movie is now streaming on Netflix.

In *13*, Evan Goldman and his mom move from New York City to Indiana. He is nearing his bar mitzvah, a Jewish ritual and celebration that takes place when a boy turns 13 and marks the

transition to adulthood. (Girls have a bat mitzvah at age 12 or 13.) Worrying about being popular enough to have a big, fun party ends up putting his new friendships at risk.

Evan is played by Eli Golden, who is 14. He told *The Week Junior* he was excited to be in the film. "Being 13 is hard. You're finding who you are. It's important that that's represented."

Off-screen, Golden represents the stuttering community. He has had a stutter (a common communication disorder involving disruptions in a

person's speech) all his life. He said it affects him less now than when he was younger and that having a script to follow is helpful: "It's easier because you know what you're going to say." Being in musicals is surprisingly easy for him. "You can't stutter while you're singing," he said.

Many songs in *13* have strong messages. "A Little More Homework" is about kids still becoming who they are. "We all have a little bit more learning to do," Golden said. Forgiveness is a prominent theme as well. Quoting a line from the film, Golden said, "If you don't forgive anybody, you'll be left with nobody but yourself."



The Broadway cast

Upcoming movie musicals

Matilda

Roald Dahl's story of a brilliant girl who stands up for herself and others became a hit Broadway musical in 2013. Netflix is releasing a film adaptation starring Alisha Weir this year.



Alisha Weir

The Little Mermaid

Singer Halle Bailey was cast as Ariel in a live-action adaptation of the animated Disney classic. It will feature some new songs written by *Hamilton* creator Lin-Manuel Miranda. The film arrives next May.



Halle Bailey

Wicked

Broadway star Cynthia Erivo will play Elphaba and pop star Ariana Grande will play Glinda in a movie version of the Broadway hit. It will be released in two parts, with the first half coming in December 2024.



Cynthia Erivo

DID YOU KNOW?

In the Crow language, Apsáalooke means "children of the large-beaked bird."

Arts and entertainment



Wendy Red Star
and some of her art

Special art on bus shelters

Travels Pretty, a public art exhibition of work by famous Native American artist Wendy Red Star, is now up on 300 bus stop shelters in New York City, Boston, and Chicago. It is part of an ongoing collaboration between the Public Art Fund and outdoor advertising company JCDecaux that helps artists reach urban communities.

Red Star was raised in Montana on the Apsáalooke reservation, home to a Native American tribe known today as the Crow Nation. For the bus shelters, she created 12 paintings that depict and explore the parfleches of the North American Great Plains tribes. Parfleches are hand-painted rawhide (animal skin) traveling suitcases.

They were used to carry goods and also as a form of expression. Parfleches were typically made by women, and one goal of the show is to highlight those women, who have been left out of history.

Public Art Fund curator (person who chooses art) Katerina Stathopoulou told *The Week Junior* that parfleches and buses have a connection. "Just as one travels by bus from point A to point B, the parfleches also traveled across the United States strapped to dogs and horses."

Each bus shelter has information about the art and a QR code for a website to learn more. Red Star said that having her work there "gives a presence to both me and my community in these cities."



MOVIE NIGHT

Ralph Breaks the Internet (2018) (Disney+)

PG

This animated adventure is a sequel to 2012's *Wreck-It Ralph!*, about video game characters at an arcade who come alive at night. Six years after the events in that film, Ralph of Fix-It Felix Jr. remains best friends with Vanellope of Sugar Rush. Vanellope is bored by driving on the same track in her game, so Ralph creates a more exciting one for her. When she tries it out, the real-life kids playing Sugar Rush lose control and break the game's steering wheel. The arcade owner finds a replacement but it's very expensive, so he decides to sell the game instead. Worried, Ralph and Vanellope plunge into the internet to get the part they need. They quickly realize it's not going to be as easy as they thought. Will the pair be able to save Vanellope's home?



If you're looking for a film to watch with family or friends, consider this pick of the week.

COURTESY WENDY RED STAR (3); NETFLIX; DISNEY; GETTY IMAGES; DISNEY+; ON LEFT PAGE: ALAN MARKFIELD/NETFLIX; DAN SMITH/NETFLIX; GETTY IMAGES (2)

THIS WEEK'S WATCH LIST



Junior Baking Show

(Netflix)

Sixteen talented young bakers go head-to-head in season six of this spin-off of *The Great British Baking Show*. To be crowned champion, they must whip up creative cakes, cookies, and more to wow the judges, baking pro Liam Charles and chef and writer Ravneet Gill.



Hamster & Gretel

(Disney Channel) August 12 at 9:35 pm ET, Saturdays at 9:30 am ET

This funny new series is from the creator of the *Phineas and Ferb* franchise. When Gretel and her pet hamster get superpowers, her brother helps them figure out how to use their abilities to protect their city from mysterious dangers.



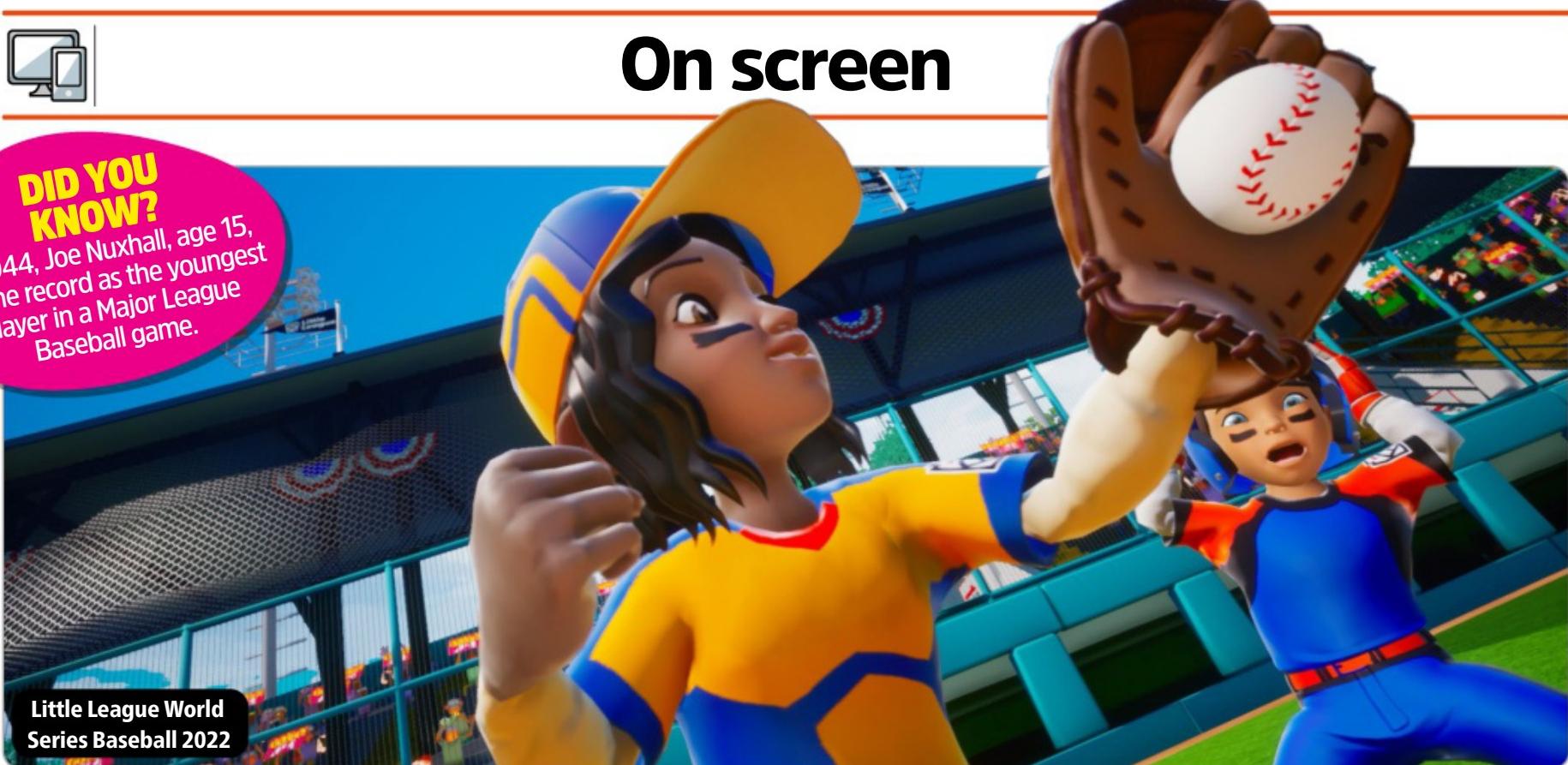
Westward Wings

(PBS App)

Learn more about monarch butterflies in this documentary short film that travels to western Montana. Researcher Maggie Hirschauer followed the species and recorded everything from discovering eggs on milkweeds to how humans have affected the butterfly population.



On screen



Play Little League baseball

Little League World Series Baseball 2022 (LLWSB) is a new sports game with a fun twist. It will be released for the Nintendo Switch, PlayStation platforms, Xbox systems, and the PC on August 17. That is also opening day of this year's Little League World Series in Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

Many video games feature pro sports, but LLWSB lets you play in the most famous sports event for kids. This year's real Little League World Series will feature 20 teams, with 10 from the US and 10 from other countries. LLWSB has 20 made-up teams with funny names like the Spicy Chefs and Incredibulls. They can include boys and girls from all over the world.

There are plenty of ways to customize your team. Uniforms, equipment, and even how the game is played are all under your

control. Teams can compete at ballparks in big cities, small towns, and other locations as they make their way to the World Series in Williamsport.

The gameplay itself is fast-paced and exciting, with arcade touches not found in real-life games. Slow Time sets the game in slow motion so you can

line up the perfect swing at the plate, while Bat Tank helps hitters crush balls no matter where the pitcher throws them. As you rack up more wins, you can earn special stickers to help you pump up hitters and make pitchers' fastballs more powerful.

The game has a tournament mode that lets you battle to the championship, a quick play mode for one-off games, and a multiplayer mode for when you're hanging out with friends. Just bring your own peanuts and Cracker Jack.



PODCAST OF THE WEEK

BOTTLESHIP ADVENTURES

Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts

This podcast series from the UK is set in Dilstonia, where items that humans throw away end up. Characters called the Jifflings fish the objects out of the sea to recycle and reuse. In each episode, a Jiffling tells a story about an item, such as a frisbee or a compass, and delivers a lesson at the end.



WEBSITE OF THE WEEK



PYRAMIDS OF MEROË

tinyurl.com/TWJUS-Pyramids

Virtually explore Sudan's extraordinary Pyramids of Meroë in the African desert through this interactive site from Google. It explains how the pyramids were designed and built nearly 3,000 years ago, then takes you inside their walls to examine what was buried inside.

VIDEO OF THE WEEK

BIG TINY FOOD FACE-OFF

tinyurl.com/TWJUS-TinyFood

Young chefs use teeny tools to cook tiny food in this competition series. Themed challenges include campfire classics and fast food. You'll see contestants whip up miniature versions of a s'mores cake, tacos, burgers, grilled cheese, and more as they battle to impress the judges.



Book club

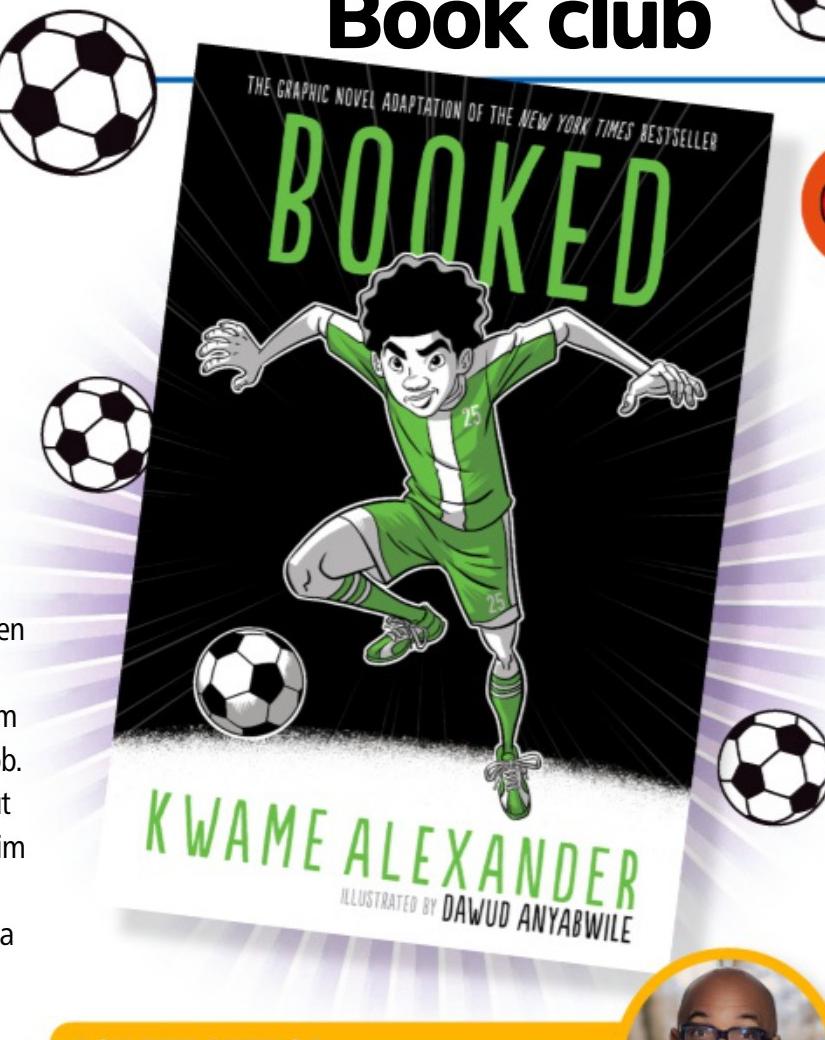
BOOK OF THE WEEK

Booked

By Kwame Alexander,
illustrated by Dawud Anyabwile
(Clarion Books)

The second book in The Crossover series is just as gripping in this graphic-novel adaptation. Nick, 12, lives for soccer and his team is playing in a top tournament. But then his world starts to fall apart. His parents are separating, and his mom is moving to another state for her job. His dad, a professor, nags him about building his vocabulary and gives him extra assignments. Then bullies at school steal Nick's bike. He reaches a breaking point, and his parents get

him help. But just when things seem to be looking up, he's thrown a curveball. Originally written as a novel in verse (poetry), the text hasn't changed in this illustrated edition. The black-and-white drawings, with splashes of lime green, convey emotion and action.



ASK THE AUTHOR

Kwame Alexander

We spoke to the author of *Booked*.



What did you want to be when you were young?

I wanted to be a pediatrician or a tennis star.

fan, but I went with his team to a tournament. It was cool, and I thought I had to capture it in a book.

This book is written in verse. Did you always love poetry?

Yes, since I was 3 years old. My mother read poetry to me. I love it.

Do you ever base characters on people in your life?

No, but I am inspired by people in my life.

What inspired this story?

I was doing an author visit, and a child asked if I had ever played futsal (indoor soccer). I was not a soccer

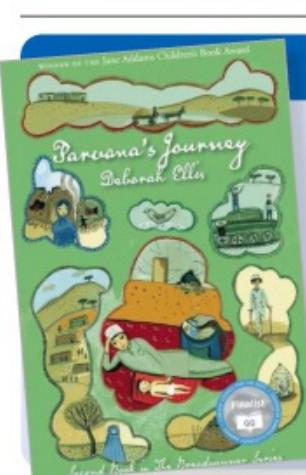
Favorite sport?

Tennis was my life in junior high and high school. Right now, I'd choose swimming. I have a new book coming out about a swimmer.

WIN A BOOK!

We're giving away five copies of *Booked*.

For a chance to win, send your name and address to contests@theweekjunior.com with Booked in the subject line. Enter by midnight on September 3. See theweekjunior.com/terms for complete rules.



READER RECOMMENDS

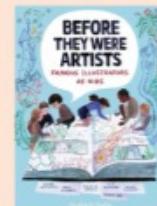
Parvana's Journey By Deborah Ellis

"This book follows the life of Parvana, a girl who lives in Afghanistan. While her mother and sisters are out of town at a wedding, her father passes away. Parvana is left alone in a dangerous world where each step takes courage. The Taliban have taken over Afghanistan and drop bombs every day. She has to find a safe place to live and learn how to survive in a changing world." Meher, 10, Virginia

Do you have a book to recommend? Send your review to hello@theweekjunior.com.

4 books with fun facts about famous artwork

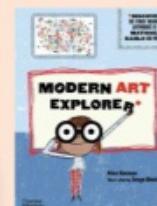
Brush up on art history with these picks about paintings, illustrations, and more.



Before They Were Artists: Famous Illustrators as Kids

By Elizabeth Haidle
(Clarion Books)

If you've ever wondered what famous people were like before they were famous, this graphic novel describes the childhoods of six children's book artists, including Maurice Sendak, author of *Where the Wild Things Are*. Ages 8–12



Modern Art Explorer

By Alice Harman, illustrated by Serge Bloch
(Thames & Hudson)

This book uses a lot of playful humor to explain the history behind 30 well-known paintings and sculptures. For instance, a painting by French artist Henri Matisse is described as "#lazygoals" because Matisse was able to make the masterpiece by painting in bed. Ages 9–12



The Art of Eric Carle

By Eric Carle
(World of Eric Carle)

Children's book author and artist Eric Carle used special techniques to illustrate his books. He created collages using hand-painted papers, and this book shares how he dyed the papers. It also contains some of his artwork, including a pop-up of the butterfly from *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. Ages 10 and up



The Ultimate Art Museum

By Ferren Gipson
(Phaidon Press)

You'll feel like you're in the world's best art museum with this book that describes more than 300 masterpieces from different countries and time periods. One section, called the Hall of Selfies, highlights a portrait by Frida Kahlo. A fold-out map guides you through the book's galleries. Ages 8 and up



How to...



Try being a disc jockey

Share your favorite songs and artists with others through this fun hobby.

If you enjoy listening to or making music, you may want to try being a disc jockey (DJ). A DJ is someone who chooses what songs to play on the radio or at events, such as parties and dances. One classic way to DJ is with vinyl records and a record player, but you can also do it by creating playlists on a computer or a mobile device. Here's how you can get started.

Set the right mood

A DJ gets to decide what songs people listen to and in what order. The main goal of a DJ is to create a list of songs that go well together and match the mood of the people listening to them. A DJ at a birthday party may choose songs that have a celebratory feeling and play them loudly so people can dance. A DJ at a reception to honor a community member may choose more mellow music so attendees can chat over the music. DJs who work at parties may also ask the person who hired them to share the music they enjoy so the DJ can incorporate those tunes.

Create playlists

If you have music loaded onto a tablet, computer, or smartphone, you can DJ by creating a playlist. For instance, you could make a playlist to listen to while practicing soccer and another one for when you and your family are preparing a meal together. Notice what

types of songs you put on playlists for different purposes, and move songs on and off the playlist based on whether or not everyone enjoyed listening to them.

Listen for the beat

Once you've practiced choosing songs for different purposes, you could try a more advanced DJ technique, like beat matching. Beat matching is when professional DJs adjust the beat of the next song they're going to play to the one that's currently playing so the transition between songs is smooth. DJs use software for this so they can adjust the beat of a song. There are also apps, such as one called Djay, to help mix songs together. (Ask an adult for permission before downloading any apps.)



Choose music to match your mood.

Consider vinyl records

Another way to practice being a DJ is by using vinyl records. If a parent or friend has a record player, ask if you can try using it. You can start with the records they already have and make a playlist using them. If you enjoy playing vinyl, you could ask to buy some of your own. (Many artists still release their songs on vinyl.) DJs typically use two record players at once so they can quickly switch between songs on different records. If you'd like to do this, you may be able to borrow another one or find one at a thrift store or garage sale. Enjoy experimenting with music!

DID YOU KNOW?

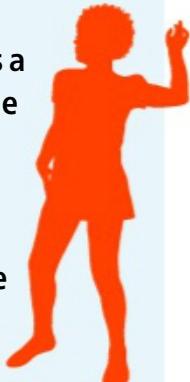
When people listen to their favorite music, their brain releases chemicals that make them feel happier.

4 tips for DJing a dance party

Demonstrate your new music skills by hosting a dance party for friends.

Clear a space

A dance party needs a dance floor so people have room to show off their moves. Ask a parent if it's OK to push furniture to the sides of a room to make more space.



Add decorations

Decorations can make your party more festive. For example, you can hang streamers or homemade paper chains over the dance floor. Or

blow up colorful balloons and scatter them around.

Set up speakers

Do a test run to make sure your speakers and your music are working. Ask an adult to help you figure out the highest volume at which you can play your music at the party without disturbing other people in your home or neighborhood.



Serve simple refreshments

All that dancing will probably make your friends hungry and thirsty. Set up a table with drinks, such as water and lemonade. You could also offer snacks, like popcorn or cookies.



How to...



BEAUTIFUL BLUE

Blue was voted the most popular color in the US by people in 39 out of 50 states, one survey found.



Make blotting art with watercolors

What you need

- Drop cloth or plastic covering
- Plastic gloves (optional)
- Liquid watercolor paints
- Muffin tray
- Water
- Paper towels
- Plastic tray (optional)

Instructions

1. Since this project can be messy, prepare your space by covering surfaces with a drop cloth or plastic covering. To avoid staining your hands with paint, you may also want to wear plastic gloves.
2. Pour about one teaspoon of liquid watercolor paint, in various colors, in each section of your muffin tray. Then add about three teaspoons of water to each section.
3. Take the paper towels and fold them in different ways, such as into quarters or eighths. Dip the corners of

the folded paper towel into different colors in the muffin tin. Watch the towels absorb the colors, but don't soak them for too long or the towels will get too soggy.

4. Gently unfold the paper towels to reveal a colorful and symmetrical design you have created.
5. Let the paper towels dry on a plastic tray or plate.

Helpful tips

- If you don't have liquid watercolors, you can also use food dye as paint for this project.

- If you have some leftover watercolor paints in your muffin tray, you could create an inkblot painting. Fold a piece of printer paper in half. Open the paper up and then place dots of watercolor on one half of the paper. Press the two halves together and rub all along the folded edge. Open the paper up and inspect your symmetrical, colorful inkblot. Use a black marker or crayon to transform your inkblot into a creature.

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ECO TIP OF THE WEEK

HELP THE EARTH IN A NEW WAY

Trash that ends up in nature, instead of being put in the garbage, is harmful to the environment because it can cause pollution and injure animals. One way to reduce litter is to try "plogging." Plogging means to pick up trash while jogging, and it's an activity that originated in Sweden. The word combines the Swedish words that mean "to pick up" and "to jog." To get started, ask an adult to go on a jog or a walk with you. Wear gloves and carry a small trash bag. If you see a piece of trash along your route, carefully pick it up and place it in the trash bag. When you get home, sort any litter that could be recycled and then place the rest in the trash.

Pick up trash with care.



That's unbelievable!



Two dogs
on a board



Canine surfers catch a wave

Surf's up! For the fourth year, dogs (and their owners) competed in the Dog Masters, the UK's dog surfing championships. About 30 dogs took part in the event, which featured live music, food, and costumes. One person dressed up as Scooby-Doo, another appeared as Queen Elizabeth, and a canine competitor wore a shark fin. The dogs rode the waves as their owners paddled out to a set of buoys, then each pair returned to shore and raced to the finish line.

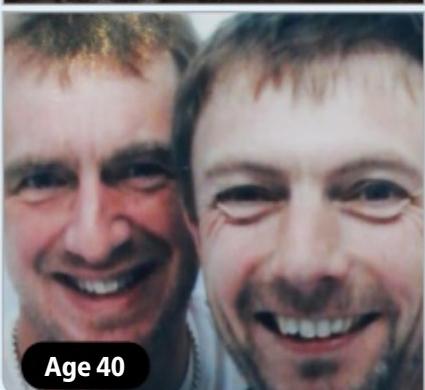
Real or
fake?



Age 10



Age 20



Age 40



Age 60

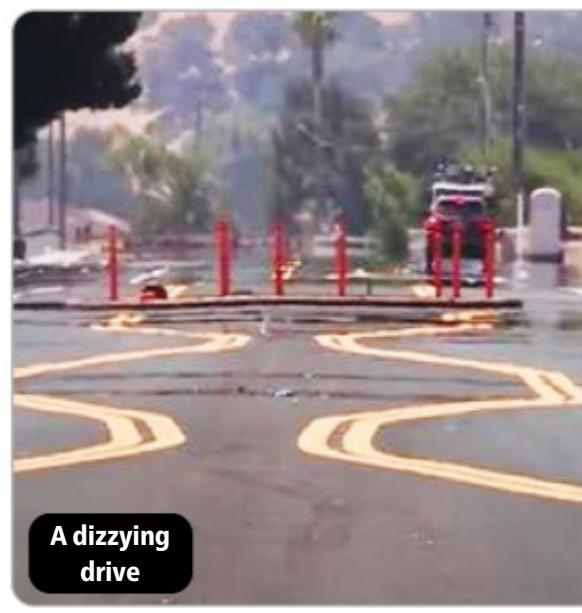
Pals repeat a photo booth pic

Every 10 years since they were 10 years old, childhood friends Martin Dowle and Keith Loughton have sat for the same photo in a UK photo booth. The first time they snapped the picture, a woman wearing a witch's hat told them they'd have to take it again 10 years later or their friendship would fall apart. The superstitious pair believed it and returned to take the photo every 10 years ever since. Is this story real, or is something wrong with this picture?*

PA MEDIA/GETTY IMAGES; ANDY NEWMAN/FLORIDA KEYS NEWS BUREAU; ALBANPIX.COM

Traffic...with a twist

The city of Hollister, California, threw drivers for a curve when lane lines on a road came out totally crooked. The lanes were supposed to be slightly curved to prevent speeding and make way for bicyclists, but a contractor misunderstood the instructions and painted the lane lines in a bizarre zigzag pattern. "This is the strangest thing I've seen," said the city's mayor, Ignacio Velazquez. The road was quickly scheduled for repainting.



A dizzying
drive

Does a pig enjoy a jig?

A team of Belgian researchers is studying how pigs are affected by music. They were inspired by a farmer who claimed that his pigs danced and wagged their tails in response to playlists he created. "Jolly dance songs are the biggest hits," he said. "Rock music is too strong. They don't like it." The results of the study are expected to be released later this year.



Oink if you
love music.



The look-alike
with his prize

Winning an Ernest competition

White-haired, bearded men gathered in Key West, Florida, in late July for the 41st annual Ernest Hemingway look-alike contest. Hemingway was a famous novelist who lived in the Florida beach town in the 1930s. This year's winner was attorney Jon Auvil, who beat out 124 other contestants on his eighth attempt at the title. Auvil, like Hemingway, is fond of fishing and has even written some fiction of his own. "Every man wants to write like Hemingway," he said. Judges said the 65-year-old's fisherman's sweater added the perfect touch.

*Fake! The pair did keep up their photo booth tradition—but not every 10 years and not at the urging of a witch. They repeated the photo every five years—and just for fun. "We're there for each other," said Loughton. "Always will be."



Your turn

Editor's note

I have a young cousin named Violet who is fascinated by sharks. She makes a point of learning all she can about them, and I can't wait to hear what she thinks of this week's cover story (p14).

What's your favorite article in this issue? I bet many of you will be interested in the new image of the Cartwheel Galaxy taken by the James Webb Space Telescope (p3). You might be excited about *13: The Musical*, a new movie about middle school (p20). Or maybe you're thinking about the many contributions Bill Russell made to the world before his death last week at age 88 (p5). He will certainly be remembered for his basketball success and his fight for civil rights. I will also remember that he once said, "My most prized possession was my library card from the Oakland Public Library." Write to me at hello@theweekjunior.com anytime! I always enjoy hearing from you.

Andrea Barbalich
Editor-in-Chief



CHARITY OF THE WEEK



Polar Bears International

This organization works to protect polar bears in the wild through awareness and research. It works with other groups to monitor the movements of polar bears in Canada and develop new technologies to help the species survive. For instance, thanks to remote solar-powered cameras, scientists can study polar bears in their dens to learn more about their behavior. Find out more at polarbearsinternational.org.



Playing my cello for charity

“ This summer, I doubled my goal and raised \$1,000 to support Project Home, an organization that provides overnight shelter for area families facing homelessness. The group also helps families find permanent, affordable housing and employment. I raised the money by playing my cello at local farmer’s markets. People at the market often stopped by to talk to me about Project Home. I also go to Project Home and play with the kids who stay there. ”

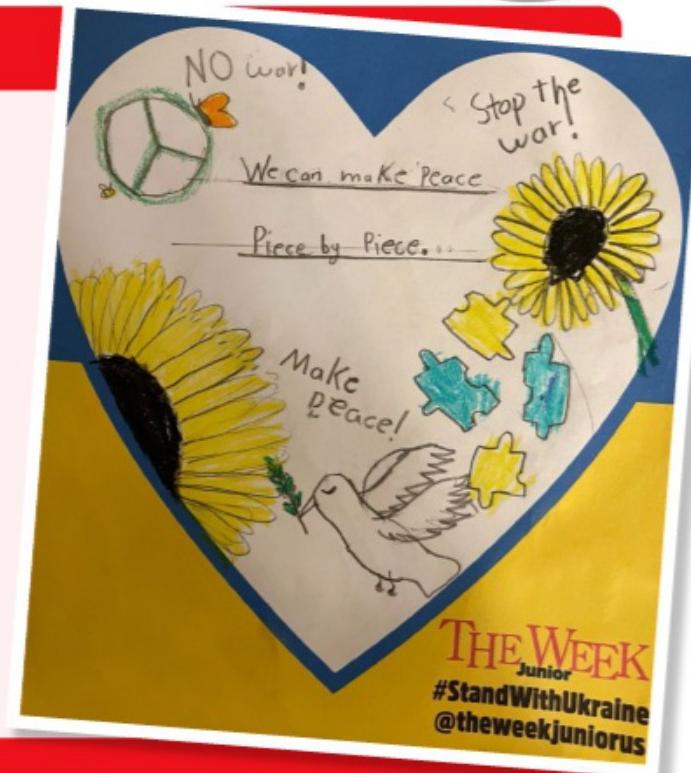


Have you done something interesting or raised money for a cause you care about? Whatever you’re up to, we want to hear about it at hello@theweekjunior.com.



Show support for Ukraine

People around the world are continuing to call for an end to the war in Ukraine. If you would like to express a wish for peace, go to theweekjunior.com/ukraine with an adult to print out our poster template. Add a drawing or a message and display it in your window or on your front door. To share your poster with us, ask an adult to take a photo of it and send it to hello@theweekjunior.com. An adult can also share it on social media using #StandWithUkraine and tag us at [@theweekjunior](https://www.instagram.com/theweekjunior).



RIDDLE OF THE WEEK
What do you take on vacation that's meant to share with everyone?
Photos

THE WEEK
Junior

IT'S YOUR TURN

Email your news, views, and photos to hello@theweekjunior.com.

Your turn



YOUR PHOTOS

We'd love to see pictures you've taken or pictures with you in them! Send them to us at hello@theweekjunior.com, along with anything you'd like to tell us about what's in the photo.



"We built a model of Stonehenge after learning about megaliths as the Word of the Week." Bryan, 9, with Elise, 5, North Carolina

"I brought *The Week Junior* on my summer vacation to Alaska."
Collin, 10, Florida



"We made the slushie recipe from your magazine! It tastes great, and we loved it!" Chelsea, 8, Melody, 11, California

POPJAM

Sign up and follow @theweekjuniorus on PopJam, a social media platform for kids 7–12. Ask an adult to download the app from iTunes or Google Play.

We asked: What is your favorite book you have read this summer?

"Wings of Fire. I love dragons!"

"The Uneteachables is an interesting story about a new girl who gets stuck in the worst class ever."

"City Spies is full of mystery."

"The Last Cuentista. It's fiction based on the real world."

In our big debate, we asked: Is planting trees hurting nature?

"No. It is helping nature, creates new homes, and provides oxygen."

"Both. Digging holes for trees could ruin underground burrows for animals. But trees give us the oxygen we need to survive."

"Trees are great for the environment."

Now tell us: What are you looking forward to about the new school year and why?



Teacher OF THE WEEK

Teacher's Name: **Mr. Hack**

School: **Allisonville Elementary School**

"Mr. Hack has taught us about math and science. But he has also taught us about ourselves, and not just ourselves but also the people around us. He also told us that we can tell him anything, no matter what it is. Lastly, my whole class would say that he is the best teacher we ever had."

Cora, 10, Indiana

Nominate your teacher for Teacher of the Week! Send your reason for the nomination, a photo of your teacher, and your school's name and address to hello@theweekjunior.com.

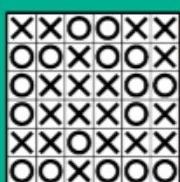


Puzzle answers (from page 26)

Keyword answer:
bananas

Code cracker
knee
eyelid
ankle
kidney

Three for all
next-door neighbor
last-minute rush
now or never



Quiz answers (from page 30)

- 1 False. It was about three times the size. 2 c) Jacksonville Jaguars 3 c) Vanellope
4 Ernest Hemingway 5 c) Ten 6 False. They steal his bike. 7 Kansas 8 b) 500 million
9 c) 11 10 False. They found that toads can climb trees. 11 Plogging
12 True 13 c) Spinner dolphins 14 True 15 Dilly Dilly Dog

We want to hear from you! To have your letters, photos, nominations, recommendations, or ideas considered for inclusion in the magazine, please include your full name, age, and state with your submission. By emailing your submission to us, you give *The Week Junior* consent to publish it in the magazine and online. Please get your parent/guardian's permission before sending anything to us.



Quiz of the week

How much of this week's news can you remember?

1 True or false? The megalodon was about twice the size of the largest great white sharks.

True False

2 Tony Boselli is the first former player from which team to be inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame?

a) Carolina Panthers b) Houston Texans
c) Jacksonville Jaguars

a b c

3 In the movie *Ralph Breaks the Internet*, what is the name of Ralph's best friend?

a) Felix b) Shank c) Vanellope

a b c

4 A competition was held in Key West, Florida, to find the best look-alike for what famous novelist?



5 How many skin tones are included in the new Monk Skin Tone Scale?

a) Six b) Eight c) Ten

a b c

6 True or false? In the graphic novel *Booked*, school bullies steal the main character's soccer ball.

True False

7 A statue of Amelia Earhart was given to the US Capitol from which state?

8 About how many million light years away from Earth is the Cartwheel Galaxy?

a) 400 b) 500 c) 700

a b c

ANSWERS
CAN BE
FOUND ON
PAGE 29.



THE WEEK Junior

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NIGHT HUNTER

Barn owls, found throughout the US, are able to hunt for food, such as mice, in total darkness due to their excellent hearing.